

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

February 25, 2020 - 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Shirley Hines, Mary Bray, and Beth Neely-Hadley,

Staff Present: County Administrator Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, and Finance Director Bill Gregory

Staff absent: County Attorney Michael Hill

I. WELCOME – Chairman Threadgill, 4:30 p.m.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator Gay provided a power point presentation of the Meriwether County Transportation Improvement Plan (TSPLOST) for 2020-2025. Administrator Gay stated that transportation and roads have been a major focus. We have moved forward and captured GDOT funds when available. There was discussion of the LMIG and SPLOST funding for 2018-2020. We have been spending more from SPLOST than the required minimum 30% match and five-years ago we paved 4-5 miles. After looking at another process we were able to resurface approximately 12 miles each year. There is no additional funding available for culvert replacement, bridge replacement or for paving gravel roads. The County has 378 miles of paved roads and 227 miles of dirt/gravel roads. TSPLOST passed with 76% in support. Funding will start in April. It is a five-year program with a maximum of \$10M. The TSPLOST Goals and Objectives are to provide additional funding for transportation purposes including patching, leveling, milling and resurfacing, grading, drainage, and the paving of dirt roads. Bridge and culvert repairs and/or replacement, equipment necessary for transportation and maintenance and improvements. Administrator Gay provided the projected amounts the County and each City/Town would receive during the 5-year program or at the maximum of \$10M. There will be no bonding or advanced funding. Other funding options are SPLOST 2020-2025 for Transportation and Equipment, GDOT participation and grants using TSPLOST as matching funds. TSPLOST will provide some funding but it will not be enough to address all transportation needs. Commissioners Hines asked about evaluation of the roads. Bill Cawthorne, Public Works Consultant, stated this could be added to an excel spreadsheet and be expanded as needed. Heavy rains have exposed poor pipes and water sheds may need to be expanded. There was conversation of repairs for culverts and pipes. There are ten pending culvert replacements not including three that were previously discussed.

The current program, of approximately 12 miles per year, does not meet the mileage requirement for a 20-year resurfacing cycle. It would require 18.9 miles per year for a 20-year cycle or 25 miles per year for a 15-year resurfacing cycle. Some roads have deteriorated to a level that surface treatment will not address the problem. In this situation an FDR program may be necessary to address the failed road base. There was further discussion of the design mix formula and the cost with and without binder. The County will check with GDOT to see what traffic studies they have for Meriwether County. Equipment will be needed for the long term. There was additional discussion of equipment, the cost and how it will be used. The County wants to serve the most citizens that we can. Administrator Gay recommended the following criteria for selection of dirt or gravel roads for paving; number of houses served per mile, one existing house every 500' of road, sets necessary criteria for future water service, right of way minimum of 60' required to receive future GDOT funding assistance, to what extent are utility relocations required, utility relocation cost must not exceed 50% of paving cost, condition and functionality of drainage structures; what will the replacement needs be, must be existing County road as of January 1, 2020, no private roads will be considered and a minimum of 75 vehicle trips per day.

Attorney Hill arrived.

The County will utilize the criteria to serve the most residents.

Commissioner Neely-Hadley left the meeting.
There was further conversation of the allocation of funds.
Commissioner Neely-Hadley returned.
Administrator Gay stated the County will look at matching funds where possible to help maximize this opportunity.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy and seconded by Mary Bray to go into Executive Session at 5:39 p.m. to discuss Legal, Personnel and Real Estate. All were in favor.
Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go out of Executive Session at 5:58 p.m. All were in favor.
Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Mary Bray to go back into the Work Session at 6:00 p.m. All were in favor

IV. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The Work Session concluded at 6:00 pm.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Meetings were listed on the Agenda.

Approved by: *Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners*
Attest: *Betty Thomas, County Clerk*
Date: *March 11, 2020*